

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-15, 21, 22, and 30 are pending in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 16-20 and 23-29 are cancelled pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 9 were amended to more clearly recite the invention. *See, e.g.,* Specification, page 11, line 28 to page 12 line 5 and page 28, lines 1-9. Claim 12 was amended to correct informalities.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

A restriction to one of the following inventions was required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-15, 21, 22, and 30, drawn to a rinse-added fabric treatment composition, classified in class 510, subclass 521.
- II. Claims 16-20, 23-29, and 31, drawn to a method for reducing surfactant residue on a fabric, classified in class 8, subclass 137.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-15, 21, 22, and 30, for prosecution. Claims 16-20, 23-29, and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file additional continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications on any cancelled matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102, §103

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over WO 98/13456 ("WO '456"). Claims 4-6 and 15 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over WO '456. (A translation of WO '456 is included for the Examiner's convenience at Appendix A). Applicants respectfully traverse and obviate the rejection.

On pages 4-6 of the Office Action, it alleges that WO '456 teaches or suggests each and every limitation of the invention. WO '456, however, does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the invention. Specifically, WO '456 does not disclose or suggest a rinse-added fabric treatment composition for increasing the rinsing capacity of an aqueous rinse bath solution, the composition comprising a rinse aid comprising a pH control agent, a suds suppression system and a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyated repeating groups, characterized in that when the composition is diluted in a rinse bath

solution, said rinse bath solution has a rinsing capacity greater than 1, where water has a rinsing capacity of 1.

WO '456 does not disclose or even suggest any compositions comprising a pH control agent, a suds suppression system and a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyated repeating groups. Specifically, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion of a suds suppression system as disclosed in the present invention. As there is no disclosure or suggestion of a suds suppression system in WO '456, Applicants respectfully submit that WO '456 does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,904,359 to Ramachandran ("Ramachandran"). Applicants respectfully traverse and obviate the rejection.

On pages 6-8 of the Office Action, it alleges that Ramachandran teaches or suggests each and every limitation of the invention. Ramachandran however, does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the invention. Specifically, Ramachandran does not disclose or suggest a rinse-added fabric treatment composition for increasing the rinsing capacity of an aqueous rinse bath solution, the composition comprising a rinse aid comprising a pH control agent, a suds suppression system and a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyated repeating groups, characterized in that when the composition is diluted in a rinse bath solution, said rinse bath solution has a rinsing capacity greater than 1, where water has a rinsing capacity of 1.

Ramachandran does not disclose or even suggest any compositions comprising a pH control agent, a suds suppression system and a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyated repeating groups. Specifically, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion of a suds suppression system as disclosed in the present invention. As there is no disclosure or suggestion of a suds suppression system in Ramachandran, Applicants respectfully submit that Ramachandran does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-15, 21, 22, 30, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly

obvious over WO 97/42292 ("WO '292"). Applicants respectfully traverse and obviate the rejection.

On pages 8-9 of the Office Action, it alleges that WO '292 teaches or suggests each and every limitation of the invention. WO '292, however, does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the invention. Specifically, WO '292 does not disclose or suggest a rinse-added fabric treatment composition for increasing the rinsing capacity of an aqueous rinse bath solution, the composition comprising a rinse aid comprising a pH control agent, a suds suppression system and a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyolated repeating groups, characterized in that when the composition is diluted in a rinse bath solution, said rinse bath solution has a rinsing capacity greater than 1, where water has a rinsing capacity of 1.

WO '292 does not disclose or even suggest any compositions comprising a pH control agent, a suds suppression system and a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyolated repeating groups. Specifically, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion of a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyolated repeating groups as disclosed in the present invention. At best, WO '292 discloses cationic surfactants having an R moiety that may be a mixture of C₁₂-C₁₄ alkyl moieties or the R moiety may comprise pure C₁₂, C₁₃, or C₁₄ alkyl moieties or any mixtures thereof. *See, e.g.*, WO '292, page 5, line 25 to page 7, line 14. As there is no disclosure or suggestion of a residue reduction agent comprising one or more alkoxyolated repeating groups in WO '292, Applicants respectfully submit that WO '292 does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regard to all claims not specifically mentioned, these are believed to be allowable not only in view of their dependency on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant to arrange for a telephonic interview in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. A fee for a one-

month extension of time is believed to be due for the amendments herein. Please charge any required fees to Procter & Gamble Deposit Account No. 16-2480.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Dated: January 12, 2004

Customer Number: 27752